



IOWAccess Project Concept Paper

Date: 08/29/2007

Project Name: Animal Feeding Operations

Requesting Agency: Iowa Dept of Natural Resources (DNR) – Environmental Services Division

Project Point(s)-of-Contact: *Christine Spackman – 281-7276*

Project Sponsor: *Iowa DNR – Division Administrator, Wayne Gieselmen, 281-5817*

Goal:

To provide public access to web-based information related to tracking and regulation of animal feeding operations (confinements and open feedlots). Location information about facilities will be displayed spatially on a map of Iowa. The web-based Animal Feed Operations (AFO) database will be structured so that information such as permit applications, manure management plans, and complaints could be submitted online as future web development monies become available. These changes will also allow attachment of electronic records to the database reducing the need for multiple paper copies, increasing transparency, and improving staff efficiency.

Project Purpose:

To refresh the current AFO application and integrate the data with DNR's ARC GIS system to allow for mapping of location information. The refreshed application will make the application easier to use for DNR staff and allow the public access to certain portions of the application. The system will make the regulatory process more transparent to Iowa's citizens which will benefit both the regulated community as well as concerned citizens.

Background: Four Bureaus within the DNR (Water Quality, Air Quality, Geologic Survey and Land Quality, and the Field Services & Compliance) manage the permitting monitoring of approximately 8,000 facilities in Iowa and issue approximately 350 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.

The department considers the management of the Animal Feeding Operation Construction Permits to be one of the key objectives of the Department and is included as a performance measure for Results Iowa. Our rivers and streams are impacted by animal agriculture. Proper storage and application of manure is essential for protecting Iowa's air quality and surface and groundwater resources. Twenty-eight percent of fish kills are attributed to runoff from open lots or management problems with manure storage at confined animal feeding operations. DNR reviews construction plans for larger facilities, and inspects open feedlots and confinements to ensure that facilities meet state requirements.

The current AFO application was built in 2003 with Visual Basic and does not display data spatially. Implementing a link to DNR's ARC GIS system will improve data quality, assist with watershed-based prioritization, and make location information easier to understand for all users.

Expected Results this Project:

In order to efficiently regulate animal feeding operations, the department must be able to accurately track and locate facilities within the state. Updating the AFO database will improve accuracy, reduce duplication, and make regulatory activity visible to interested parties. Citizen's will have access to information about the location of AFOs and information about associated permits. Currently, the regulated community can only determine the status of their applications and receive notification of pending deadlines through mail or phone communication. These improvements will increase compliance and reduce the time our limited staff spend responding to questions. In addition, concerned citizens will be able to track activities in areas of concern to them.

Request: *(include dollar amount and description of what will be purchased - i.e. services, hardware, software)* The Department of Natural Resources has funding to complete the business requirements and design of the refreshed AFO application. DNR is requesting lowAccess support for the DNR to manage the design and development of the project. We are not seeking lowAccess funding at this time.

We are seeking approval for our concept AND for support for DNR to manage the design and development process. We want to have the opportunity to seek lowAccess funding once we have completed our design and be allowed to move forward with DNR managing the development effort.

Resources Being Contributed: *(people or funds being contributed to the project by the sponsoring agency- include role/% of time or amount in dollars)* Christine Spackman's time (40%) as project manager, Dawn Connet's time (20%) as Senior Business Analyst and funding for consultant to complete business requirements for the revised application.

Interested Parties: Benefits to: General public/People of the State of Iowa, DNR staff, regulated parties, producer groups such as the Farm Bureau, Pork Producers and Cattleman's Association, environmental organizations from around the state, including the Iowa Environmental Council, Sierra Club, Iowa PIRG, and ICCI.

Recipients of this Service: Department of Natural Resources staff managing permitting and monitoring of Animal Feeding Operations; and the general public/people of the State of Iowa including stakeholders in the agricultural industry and environmental groups.